

1859

Carte du Bassin inférieur de la Rivière à l'origine de la colonisation

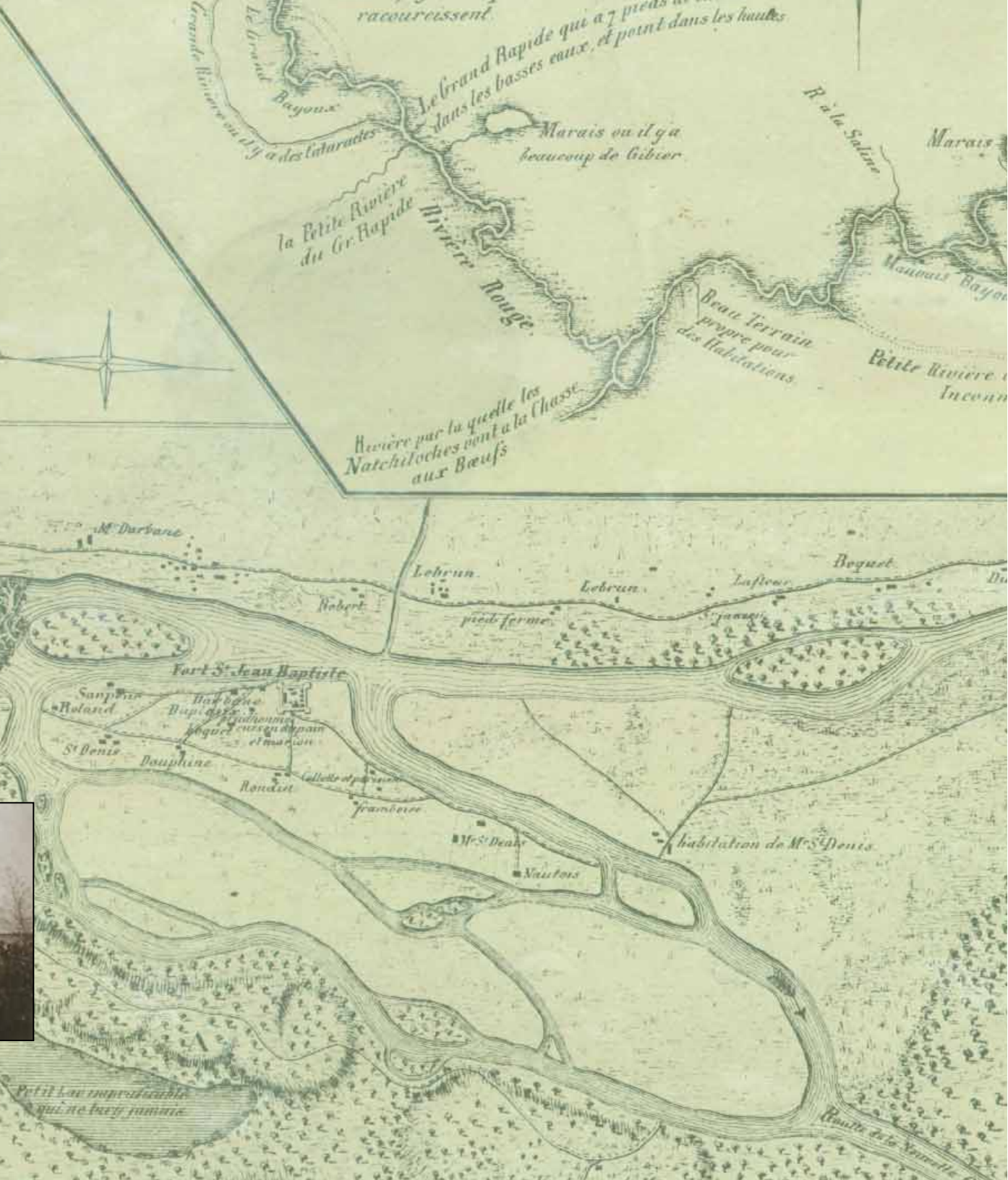


Looking to the Future



CANE RIVER
NATIONAL
HERITAGE
AREA

Natchitoches sont à 7 lieues de l'établissement des Espagnols (Lafayette) - Entre deux sont de grands coteaux de pins, avec des rivières des Espagnols dont le pays est très beau. Les terres le long de la Rivière Rouge, des Natchitoches, dans le fleuve Mississippi, n'ont partout à l'exception de petites hauteurs à droite et à gauche, et sont pleines d'embarcations on est souvent obligé de couper, pour passer les voitures, appelée *butte à muser* où il convient placer le Fort. Elle l'est où est actuellement le fort de 20 pieds, et n'est commandée. Cette butte est escarpée du côté de la Riv., et en pente douce du côté



Hauling cotton
Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, NSU



*Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan
Executive Summary*

Looking to the Future

**CANE RIVER
NATIONAL
HERITAGE
AREA**



Photo by Sonny Carter

A Vision for Cane River



The Cane River National Heritage Area will be the best preserved and interpreted example of the rich

continuum of Louisiana history from frontier exploration through plantation agriculture to present-day lifestyles, traditions, and celebrations.

Residents of the Cane River region will enjoy a quality of life based on respect for privacy and traditional lifestyles and on a strong, healthy economy that is compatible with the historical character of the region. Economic benefits of heritage tourism will assist in the long-term preservation and enhancement of heritage area resources.

All of this will be accomplished through local, regional, state, and federal cooperation and partnerships with businesses, organizations, and residents. Heritage area landowners and local governments will play a key role because land use decisions will remain, as they have historically, at the local level.



Where Is Cane River National Heritage Area?

Cane River National Heritage Area is in northwestern Louisiana, in the fertile farming country of the Red River Valley. The city of Natchitoches, the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory, is the northern gateway to the heritage area and is famous for its historic downtown district and many heritage celebrations. Cane River National Heritage Area is only a four-hour drive from Houston, Dallas, and New Orleans and is easily accessed from the interstate highway system. The nearby cities of Shreveport and Alexandria offer national airport services.



REGIONAL CONTEXT

Cane River
National Heritage Area,
Louisiana



What Are National Heritage Areas?

National heritage areas are a relatively new phenomenon in the United States. They are places designated by Congress for their nationally distinctive landscapes that retain features and traditions that represent an important aspect of the American experience. Heritage areas are regions that are comprised primarily of privately owned lands but often include national, state, and regional parks, forests, and recreation areas. The significance of national heritage area landscapes is enhanced by continued use of the heritage areas by people whose traditions helped to shape the landscapes. Although federal and

state government agencies frequently provide technical and financial assistance to heritage areas, heritage areas are managed by a nonprofit group, commission, or other organization of mostly local citizens. Generally these management entities are non-regulatory, and it is through partnerships that communities find creative ways to preserve and promote heritage areas.

State heritage areas are a recent strategy for state legislatures to designate and protect distinctive landscapes having a statewide level of significance. The State of Louisiana has designated Cane River National Heritage Area an official state heritage area.



What Is Cane River National Heritage Area?

Cane River National Heritage Area is a place where many cultures—American Indian, French, Spanish, African, and later American—came together to create a way of life dependent on the land and the river and each other. Today, colonial forts, Creole plantations, churches, cemeteries, archeological sites, historic transportation routes, and commercial centers provide a special view into this past. The people of Cane River continue the traditions handed down through generations that keep the unique cultures of this region alive. On November 4, 1994, the United States Congress acknowledged the special qualities of this region by creating Cane River National Heritage Area and Cane River Creole National Historical Park.



Illustration 1: St. Augustine Catholic Church

Photo 2: Front Street, Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District

Photo 3: Creole ladies on the porch of Badin-Roque kitchen
Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, NSU

Photo 4: African House at Melrose Plantation

Photo 5: Texas & Pacific Railway Depot, Natchitoches



Heritage Area Sites

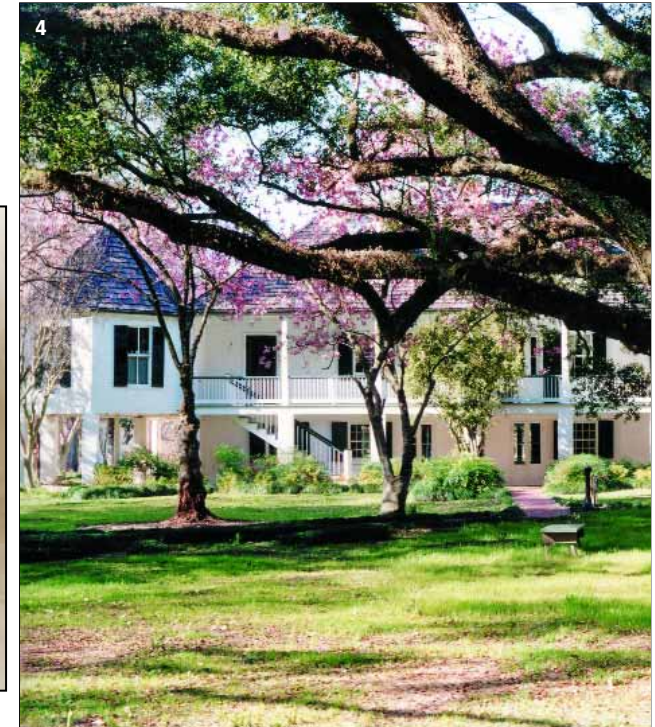
The core of the heritage area is south of Natchitoches between Interstate 49 and the Red River. The 116,000-acre area includes most of the distinctive landscapes that are closely connected to the history of this region. Among the sites that are open to the public are the Oakland and Magnolia Plantation units of Cane River Creole National Historical Park, and privately owned sites such as the Melrose, Magnolia, and Beau Fort Plantations and the Kate Chopin House. Several other plantation homes, local churches, and other sites are available for intermittent tours or visits. The State of Louisiana manages three major heritage area sites. These are Los Adaes State Historic Site, a Spanish fort and mission site near Robeline; Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site, a reconstruction of the original French fort in Natchitoches; and Fort Jesup State Historic Site, an American fort in Sabine Parish. The Natchitoches National Historic Landmark District has more than 100 historic properties.

Photo 1: Carnahan Store, Cloutierville

Photo 2: Kate Chopin House (Alex Cloutier Plantation home), Cloutierville

Photo 3: Kate Chopin, author
Courtesy of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches

Photo 4: Melrose Plantation



Who Manages the Heritage Area?

A 19-member commission currently guides heritage area programs and activities. The commission members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior and represent a cross-section of the community. The commission has authority to hire staff, administer grant programs, enter into cooperative agreements, and set priorities, but it has no zoning or land-use powers and no power of eminent domain.



The National Park Service's Role

The National Park Service and Cane River National Heritage Area are closely linked. The National Park Service provides the heritage area with funding, legal guidance, technical assistance, and some administrative services. Most importantly, Cane River Creole National Historical Park, a unit of the national park system, and the heritage area are bound together by their overlapping enabling legislation (Public Law 103-499) to assist one another in the preservation and interpretation of the Cane River region. The park assists the heritage area by coordinating a comprehensive research program. Both the park and heritage area enter into cooperative agreements with owners of heritage area sites for historic preservation and interpretation purposes. Eventually, the National Park Service will construct a regional visitor center complex to serve the needs of the park, heritage area, and potentially other Cane River area partners. And finally, the heritage area complements Cane River Creole National Historical Park by providing a dynamic context of living cultures and historic landscapes that set the stage for the exceptional stories of the Cane River region to unfold.



Photo 1: Park interpreter, Cane River Creole National Historical Park
Photo by Sonny Carter

Photo 2: 1858 property map, Magnolia Plantation
Courtesy of Hertzog family

Photo 3: Brick quarters, Magnolia Plantation unit of Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Illustration 4: Oakland Plantation





The Legacy of Cane River

Photo 1: Two women in a bateau,
*Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU*

Photo 2: Former slave, approximate
age 105. Photo taken at Oakland
Plantation around 1935.
*Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU*

Photo 3: The Rachal House
Photo by Philip Gould

Photo 4: Cherokee Plantation
pole barn

Photo 5: St. Augustine Catholic
Church, circa 1927
*Photo by Arthur Babb, Melrose Collection,
Cammie G. Henry Research Center, NSU*

Photo 6: Cane River baptism
*Melrose Collection,
Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU*

Photo 7: Cane River farmer
*Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU*

Photo 8: Oakland Plantation unit,
Cane River Creole National
Historical Park

Photo 9: Local sawmill
*Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU*

Photo 10: Cotton gin along
Highway 119

Photo 11: Creole cowboy
Photo by Joseph Moran

The landscape of Cane River has been the focal point for American Indian settlements, colonial forts, and Creole plantations. The river itself was a major trade thoroughfare, one that was crossed by overland trade routes. It was at this crossroads that the Natchitoches band of Caddo Indians lived. The prospect of trade and alliance with American Indians brought

European colonial powers to the area, and this region soon became the intersection between French and Spanish realms in the New World. The French first came to the region in 1714, establishing Fort St. Jean Baptiste shortly thereafter. In response, the Spanish built the presidio known as Los Adaes 15 miles to the west. Settlement spread from these early outposts, and the town of Natchitoches grew up around Fort St. Jean Baptiste to become the most prosperous town in the region.

As countries came together in this place, so did cultures. American Indians were joined by European settlers, who imported many enslaved Africans to farm the land. The interaction of these groups led to the development of a distinctive Creole culture. This culture cut across racial categories and drew from many traditions but remained grounded in French colonialism and Catholicism.

A thriving agricultural economy had developed along the banks of the river by the time the region was acquired by

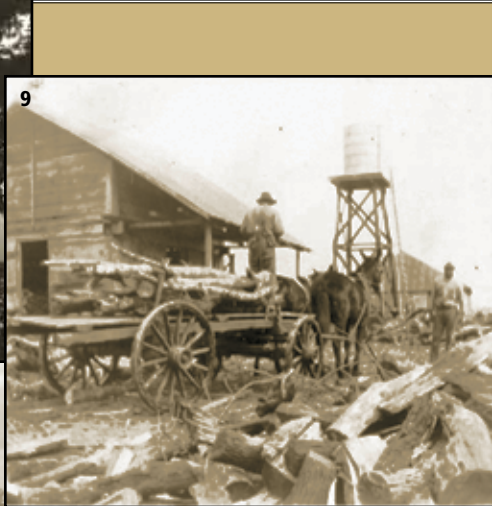
Cane River, an oxbow lake that once was the primary channel of the mighty Red River, defines the region today, just as it has for centuries. The stories of Cane River's people are brimming with the contrasts that comprise our nation's history—conquest and colonialism, militarism and peace, wealth and poverty, slavery and freedom.

the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. Natchitoches, the oldest permanent European settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory, was the region's commercial center. Downriver from the town, in the areas known as *Côte Joyeuse* (Joyous Coast) and Isle Brevelle, plantations produced indigo, tobacco, and later cotton.

The Civil War and its aftermath brought great economic devastation and cultural change to the residents of the Cane River region. Tenant farming and sharecropping replaced slavery, exchanging one labor-intensive system for another. After World War II, mechanized farming permanently supplanted the old agricultural practices that depended on human labor in the fields. As a result, many people migrated to urban centers, leaving the fields behind.

This is the complex past that is etched indelibly on the landscape, in the architecture, and in the myriad cultural traditions that have been passed down through generations.







A Plan for the Future

The commission, with assistance from the National Park Service, recently completed the *Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan*. This plan has been approved by the Governor of Louisiana and the Secretary of the Interior. Now the commission has a clear mandate to proceed with the long-term preservation and promotion of this region. This document summarizes key discussions in the *Management Plan*.

The *Management Plan* guides the long-term stewardship of the heritage area by setting forth a balanced partnership program of preservation, education, and tourism. The overall goal is to ensure that the qualities that make the heritage area a national treasure today will continue far into the future. To accomplish this, management actions will follow three major paths:

Develop and maintain a well-organized and funded partnership in conservation, preservation, and research that will help ensure the long-term integrity of heritage area resources, including traditions, landscapes, and structures.

Foster public support and appreciation for Cane River history and heritage area resources by providing quality educational and interpretive services.

Provide support for and effectively market a full range of heritage tourism opportunities to extend visitors' stays in the region and encourage repeat visitation.

Photo 1: Jelly for sale at the Green Market, Natchitoches

Photo 2: Artisan at Folk Festival, NSU

Photo 3: Musicians at the Green Market, Natchitoches

Photo 4: Adai Caddo dancer
Photos by Sonny Carter





Being a Part of the Heritage Area

Property owners whose historic properties are not in the heritage area and desire inclusion in the heritage area will have to pursue separate federal legislation. Any sites that are included in the heritage area will need to meet the first of the following criteria and at least one of the last three criteria:

- The property is or will be made open to the public for a minimum of 12 days a year.
- The property is listed on or is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.
- The property represents one or more of the heritage area interpretive themes.
- The property has an important ethnographic association with one of the heritage area cultural groups.



Photo 1: American Cemetery, Natchitoches

Photo by Sonny Carter

Photo 2: Cherokee Plantation

Photo 3: Beau Fort Plantation

Illustration 4: Quarters, Magnolia Plantation



THE PLAN

Cane River National Heritage Area, Louisiana

Natchitoches Area

- Concentrate visitor support services, such as food, lodging, and shopping.
- Encourage cooperation by area agencies, schools, museums, and organizations to provide technical assistance and educational programs on heritage area topics.
- Provide hospitality training for area businesses that cater to tourists.
- Work with agencies and organizations to develop a coordinated volunteer program.





Joint Regional Visitor Center

- Assist the National Park Service in the planning and development of a joint visitor facility, to be located in the Natchitoches / Cane River area.
- Heritage area commission/staff will have a presence in the facility.

Magnolia Plantation/Derry Area

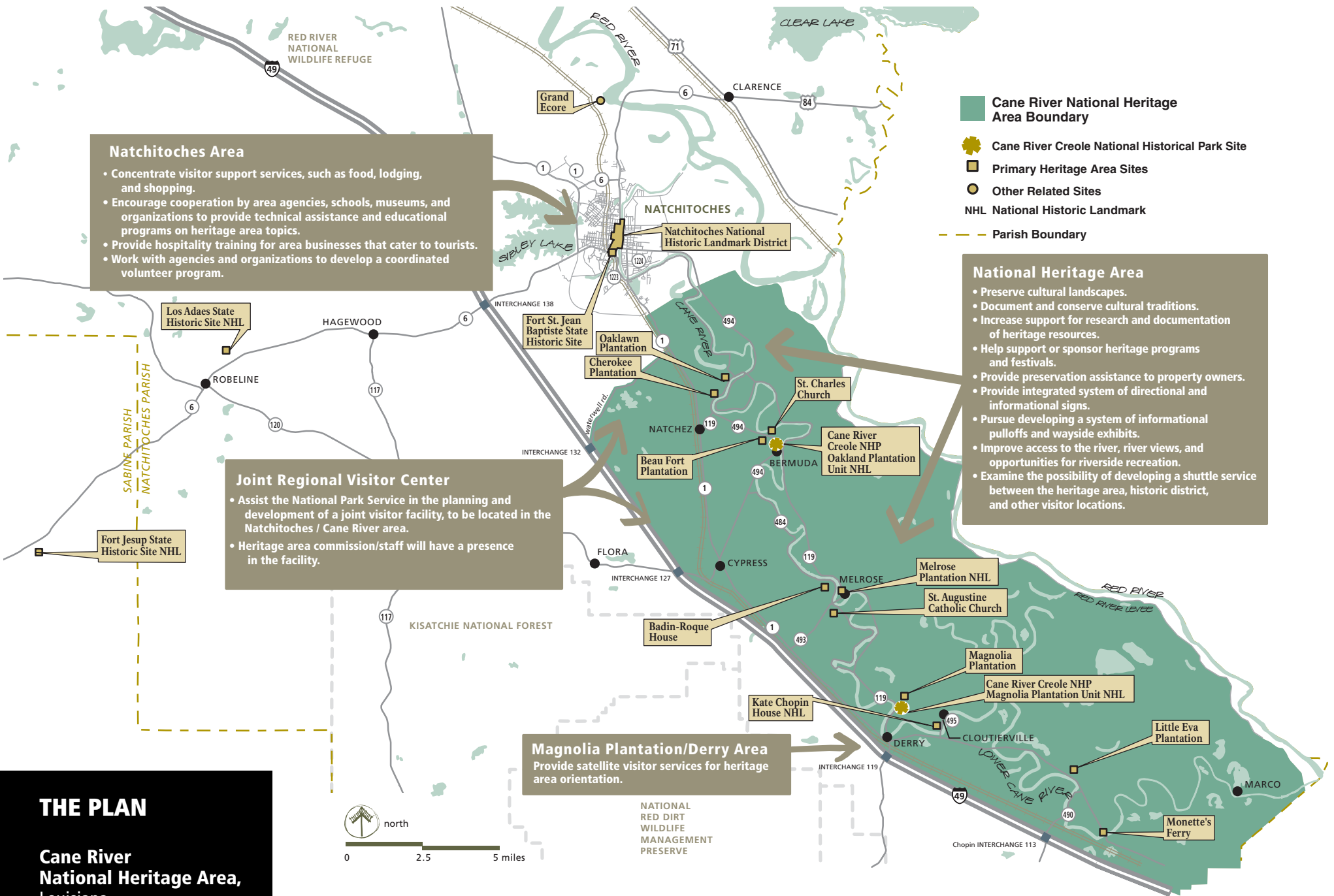
Provide satellite visitor services for heritage area orientation.

Cane River National Heritage Area Boundary

-  Cane River Creole National Historical Park Site
-  Primary Heritage Area Sites
-  Other Related Sites
- NHL National Historic Landmark
-  Parish Boundary

National Heritage Area

- Preserve cultural landscapes.
- Document and conserve cultural traditions.
- Increase support for research and documentation of heritage resources.
- Help support or sponsor heritage programs and festivals.
- Provide preservation assistance to property owners.
- Provide integrated system of directional and informational signs.
- Pursue developing a system of informational pull-offs and wayside exhibits.
- Improve access to the river, river views, and opportunities for riverside recreation.
- Examine the possibility of developing a shuttle service between the heritage area, historic district, and other visitor locations.





Preserving Resources, Conserving Traditions

The future of the heritage area depends on the preservation and conservation of the region's rich heritage. This task is becoming more urgent as development pressures increase in and adjacent to the heritage area. One of the commission's priorities is to ensure that the special values for which Congress set aside the heritage area will continue far into the future. This will entail working closely with landowners, communities, institutions, and government offices to document and protect these values.

- The heritage area commission will provide preservation assistance (technical information, financial or in-kind support, etc.) to those properties that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as funding and staff are available. All assistance will meet the preservation standards set by the Secretary of the Interior.

- The commission will develop partnerships with preservation land trust and other nonprofit organizations as well as local and state agencies to explore ways to protect cultural landscapes and other natural and cultural resources. In some cases these partnerships will also improve public access to resources, especially Cane River. The commission is prohibited from acquiring property; through these partnerships however, conservation easements, leases, fee-simple acquisition, or other methods could be used to help ensure protection and enhanced visitor opportunities. Protection efforts will always involve the landowner and require landowner permission.
- The commission will work with community partners to help document and conserve the area's cultural traditions and lifeways. Funding assistance for research projects and educational programs will be pursued. Also, the commission will help sponsor those cultural events that substantially support the goals of the heritage area. The commission will develop guidelines that organizations will be required to follow to receive heritage area support.
- The commission will oversee a research program on subjects such as archeology, history, and ethnography. This commission will coordinate with the research programs of other partners, especially Cane River Creole National Historical Park.
- The commission will consult and coordinate with the natural resource agencies and organizations that have interest in or responsibility for protecting natural resources in the heritage area. The purpose of such a liaison will be to maintain awareness of natural resource issues within the heritage area, obtain assistance in interpreting the natural environment, and find ways to help heritage area residents protect and enhance their natural resource assets.



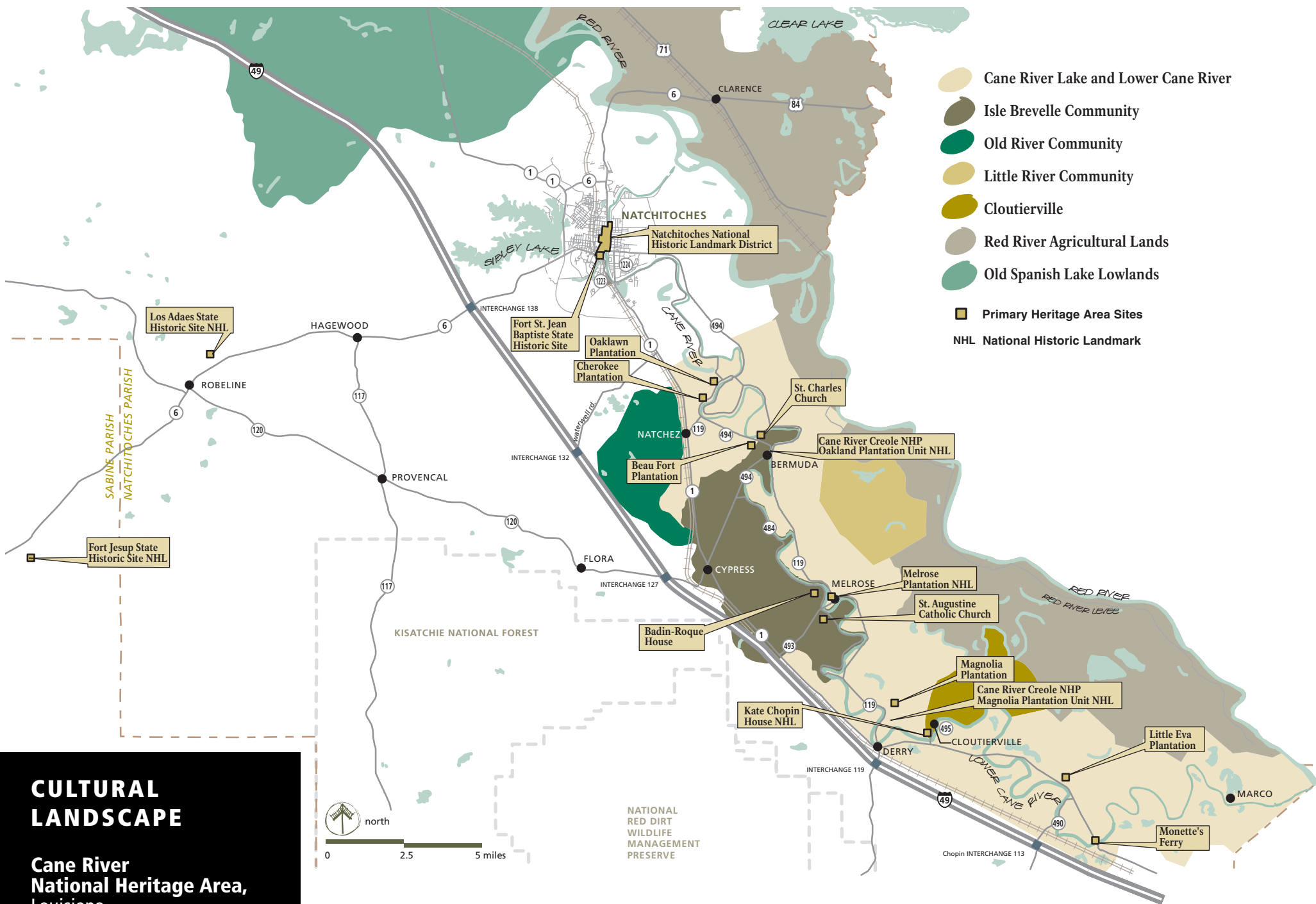
Photo 1: Historic Bermuda bridge

Photo 2: Demonstration program at Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Photo 3: Archeological research at Melrose Plantation
Photos by Sonny Carter

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

Cane River
National Heritage Area,
Louisiana



CULTURAL LANDSCAPE DESCRIPTIONS

Cane River Lake and Lower Cane River

Soon after the French constructed Fort St. Jean Baptiste, settlers began clearing the floodplains along the Red River (now Cane River). They laid out their plantations using the French arpent land tenure system—long, narrow lots that ran perpendicularly from the river to the back bayous. Plantation owners acquired many of these arpents to create large landholdings. They located their plantation homes near the river. Boats docked at the plantations to deliver goods and passengers and pick up crops and other products. Today, many of the agricultural landscapes typically associated with the large plantations have retained a surprising amount of overall integrity. It is still fairly common to find clusters of core plantation structures (or more recent farm buildings) surrounded by large tracts of agricultural land.

Isle Brevelle Community

This Creole community was established in the late 1700s by the freed slave Marie Thérèse Coin-Coin and her descendents. She and her children carved out a successful agricultural venture, owning their own slaves and gradually acquiring more land. This community founded its own churches, schools, businesses, and places of entertainment. Today, St. Augustine Catholic Church is the spiritual center and heart of the community.

Old River Community

Little River Community

The Old River area no longer is an identifiable community, and there is very little information available about the Little River community. Both had connections to the Isle Brevelle community. In both areas, mostly abandoned now, the landscape is very open with old (circa 1900) tenant houses scattered among the agricultural fields, many of which still display remnant patterns of the 19th and 20th century arpent lines. The scattered abandoned tenant houses are unlikely to remain standing much longer.

Cloutierville

This community was named for Alexis Cloutier, who built the town on his plantation in the early 1800s. The town once served the workers from nearby plantations and smaller farms and the local lumber industry. The town supported services such as banks, medical care, barbers, a cotton gin, several large general stores, a racetrack, and a multipurpose Opera House. Today, a number of historic structures line the main street, including the Cloutier House (Kate Chopin House, Bayou Folk Museum), the Carnahan Store, a circa 1900 bank, St. John's Catholic Church and cemetery, and numerous tenant houses.

Red River Agricultural Lands

This vast agricultural landscape along the Red River has connections to the early settlement patterns along the Cane River. These lands contain numerous historic structures identified on the state's Historic Standing Structures Survey and appear to retain enough integrity to be considered significant within the parish.

Old Spanish Lake Lowlands

A large lake created by the 160-mile Red River log jam caused the Caddo Indians to retreat to its edges. After the lake was drained, what remained was a very flat wetland that was quite distinct from the surrounding forested hills. Today, the Adai Caddo community near Allen overlooks these wetlands. This remnant American Indian/Spanish community historically was associated with the presidio and mission at Los Adaes, where marriages between American Indians and Spanish were common.



Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry
Research Center, NSU

People and the Land

Throughout the centuries, the residents of the Cane River region have had an indelible impact on the land and what we see today—landscapes with their own special histories. These landscapes, shown on the opposite page, were documented as part of a 1997 NPS cultural landscape inventory. The original heritage area boundary concept established by Congress has been revised based largely on this research.



The City of Natchitoches was established in 1714 by the French, making it the oldest permanent settlement in the Louisiana Purchase territory. Natchitoches flourished as a river port and cross-roads, giving rise to a strong agricultural community along the river. The city's National Historic Landmark district encompasses a 33-block area, including many historic homes, churches, and commercial structures.

NATCHITOCHES NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DISTRICT

Cane River
National Heritage Area,
Louisiana



 **NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARK DISTRICT**



Photo 1: Prudhomme-Roquier House, Natchitoches

Photo 2: Historic Second Street, Natchitoches
Cammie G. Henry Research Center, NSU

Photo 3: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,
Natchitoches

Photo 4: Front Street and Cane River, Natchitoches



Visitor Opportunities

Visitors to Cane River National Heritage Area will need information and services to help make their experience a pleasant and memorable one. There are many steps to creating a quality experience. Visitors need to find out about the heritage area, be able to locate and navigate through the area with confidence, and have diverse opportunities to learn about and experience the people and places. The commission will work closely with heritage area sites, local organizations, and agencies to accomplish this.

Marketing and Sales. The commission will work closely with the Natchitoches Parish Tourist Commission to facilitate the preparation and distribution of information about the heritage area. Brochures will be made available at heritage area sites and visitor/tourist facilities statewide. Also, general heritage area information will be on the Internet (www.caneriverheritage.org). The commission will help develop information packages customized to the age and interests of different groups and special event needs. Also, the heritage area staff will work with the tourist commission and other partners to ensure that area tourist brochures and historic property literature are accurate and consistent. The commission will encourage heritage-area-related product sales that carry the heritage area logo or “brand” to meet criteria that ensure quality and authenticity. This may be accomplished through cooperation with an existing nonprofit organization or a future friends group.



Sign System. A directional and informational sign program will be developed for the purpose of improving visitors’ sense of welcome to the area and their ability to find sites and facilities. Sign development and placement will be coordinated with federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to prevent duplication and clutter and to ensure accuracy and safety.

Other Identity and Navigational Aids. The commission will develop an official logo or symbol for the heritage area. The logo will provide a quickly recognizable image on signs, banners, and publications that will guide visitors in identifying heritage area resources and events. Also, the commission will explore the feasibility of developing a repeating radio broadcast message for tourists entering or traveling through the area to help them locate and learn about the area’s attractions and special events.

Hospitality Training. To help ensure high quality hospitality to visitors, the commission will develop hospitality training in conjunction with the tourist commission, chamber of commerce, the city of Natchitoches, area colleges, and others. The purpose will be to train frontline service providers, such as docents, restaurant workers, gas station attendants, and lodging workers, about the area’s history and opportunities available to visitors. The training will enable them to answer standard visitor questions. The training can be done through a variety of media, and successful completion can be recognized by certification.

Interpretation and Education. Making the sites come alive creates the type of experiences that attract visitors and also is key to building a constituency that understands and supports the heritage area. Interpretation and education are the avenues by which the heritage area will strive to achieve this. For example, the heritage area will sponsor seminars on



Clementine Hunter emerged as Louisiana’s most celebrated primitive artist during the 1940s, living most of her years at Melrose Plantation.

Photo 1: Brochures produced by Cane River National Heritage Area Commission and partners

Photo 2: Festival of Lights celebration in Natchitoches
Photo by Sonny Carter

Photo 3: Clementine Hunter
Photo by Curtis Guillette

Photo 4: Picking Cotton
Courtesy of Watson Library, NSU

Photo 5: Reenactor at Fort St. Jean Baptiste State Historic Site
Photo by Sonny Carter





Photos by Sonny Carter

Cane River area history and arts, work with local museums and interpretive centers to develop exhibits and programs on heritage area topics, and provide a variety of heritage area tours.

Recreation. The commission will support the development of recreational opportunities that complement the rural and historical character of the heritage area. The emphasis will be on increasing opportunities for visitors to see the river and access the river's edge. This may include riverside trails, picnicking, interpretive waysides, and more opportunities for nonmotorized boating. Scenic byway designation, bicycle routes, and other types of trails will also be supported.

A Regional Visitor Center. The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission will participate in the planning, development, funding, and use of a joint regional visitor center and headquarters. Consistent with the partnership approach, the facility will be shared by the National Park Service, the heritage area, and possibly other entities that have a role in providing visitor services and/or have public stewardship responsibilities for natural or cultural resources of the Cane River region. The purpose of this center will be to provide an information facility that will orient visitors to the region and provide an overview of the area's heritage, its resources, the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve those resources, places to visit, and upcoming events and activities. Visitors will have access to basic services and a variety of interpretive opportunities through audiovisual programs, interpretive exhibits, and demonstrations.

Outlying Visitor Contact. Visitor orientation services will also be needed at other locations in the region due to the size of the heritage area and the different points at which visitors will enter the area. These outlying orientation services

will help ensure that most visitors will have some access to heritage area information. This orientation can be accomplished through the use of existing visitor service facilities in the region or can include the development of new facilities. As partnerships evolve, a variety of opportunities to accomplish this secondary level of orientation services will be identified.

Volunteer Services. The commission will work with other organizations that rely on volunteer services to develop a coordinated volunteer program. The program will strive to increase the number of volunteers, pool volunteer resources, and organize the assignment of volunteers to where they are most needed.



Transportation and Circulation

The roads through the heritage area are integral to local residents' needs to commute to work, get to school, access their farm fields, and so forth. They also provide a special experience for visitors discovering the heritage area for the first time. To address the needs and concerns of tourists and residents, the heritage area commission will work with state and local agencies and landowners to help ensure safe and enjoyable travel through the area.

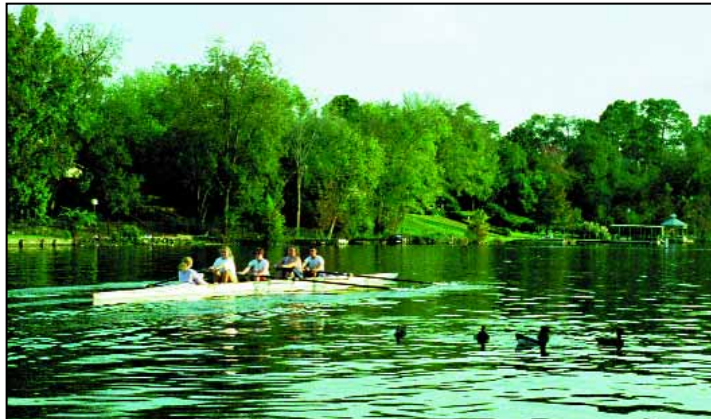
Primary and Alternate Routes. The primary route to access the heritage area, especially for buses and recreational vehicles, will be LA 1. The rural roads that connect major

heritage area sites and parallel Cane River (such as LA 494, LA 119) will be recommended as an alternative scenic route for visitors who have more time to spend in the area.

Recreational Driving & Bicycling. To help market the heritage area as a scenic rural driving experience, the commission will investigate scenic byway designation of a route through the area. The commission will also work with the parish to encourage designation of bicycle routes on existing roads.

Pull-offs and Waysides. The commission will work with local agencies and landowners to pursue development of pull-offs and accompanying wayside exhibits primarily along Cane River. The pull-offs will help alleviate the pressure to widen the roadways and provide visitors with additional opportunities to learn about the area's heritage.

Shuttle Service. The heritage area commission will work cooperatively with the private sector and other partners to develop a shuttle service to provide transportation for visitors between tourist destinations in the region.



Sculling on the Cane River
Photos by Sonny Carter

Implementation through Partnerships



Roque House

The United States Congress, in creating Cane River National Heritage Area, knew that partnerships would be the key to preserving and enhancing this special region. By bringing together the vision, expertise, and resources of the State of Louisiana, the city and parish governments of Natchitoches, the National Park Service and other federal agencies, and many area businesses and civic organizations, great strides will be made toward the long-term protection and promotion of the region.

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission is working with more than 50 different partners to implement the *Cane River National Heritage Area Management Plan*, including local, state, and federal government offices, American Indian tribes, universities, preservation organizations, foundations, historical societies, and landowners. Many others have voiced an interest in becoming partners. Several projects are underway, and many are on the horizon, ranging from restoration projects and archeological and archival research to development of a comprehensive sign system for the region.

The Cane River National Heritage Area Commission invites you to become a part of the future of the Cane River region, whether as a volunteer, community advocate, or potential partner. If you want to learn more about Cane River National Heritage Area and its programs, please contact the Cane River National Heritage Area office.



Coin-Coin Prudhomme House



A view of St. Augustine Church from Cane River

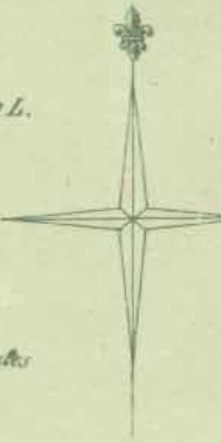
Ethel Hollomon Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, NSU

1859.

Carte du Bassin inférieur de la Rivière Rouge à l'origine de la colonisation.

Echelle de Dix lieues communes.

1 2 3 4 5 10 L.



Adaves
sidio Espagnol
la Province
Tecas.

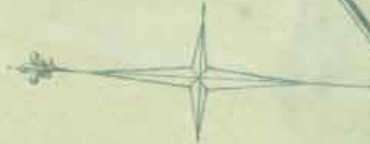
Carte des Natchitoches.

levée par J.F. Broutin, Ingénieur.

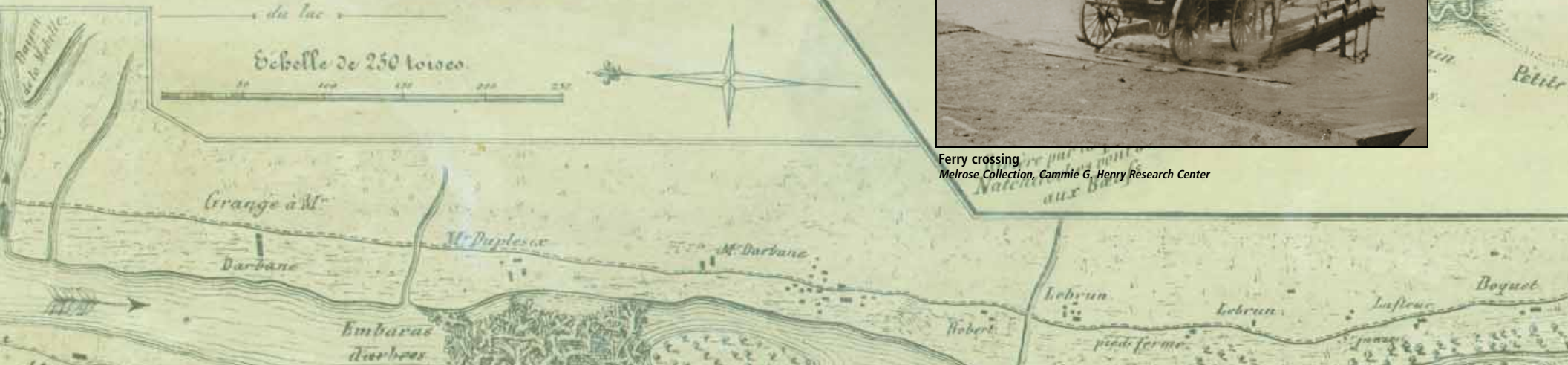
(Les Natchitoches sont à 7 lieues de l'établissement des Espagnols appelés les Adaves) - Entre deux sont de grands coteaux de pins, avec des prairies aux environs des Espagnols dont le pays est très beau.
Toutes les terres le long de la Rivière Rouge, des Natchitoches à son entrée dans le fleuve Mississippi, n'ont partout à l'exception de quelques petites hauteurs à droite et à gauche, et sont pleines d'embarres d'arbres qu'on est souvent obligé de couper pour passer les voitures.
A hauteur appelée butte à muser où il convient placer le Fort. Elle commande l'isthme où est actuellement le fort de 20 pieds et n'est commandée d'aucun endroit. Cette butte est escarpée du côté de la Rivière et en pente douce du côté du lac.

Echelle de 250 toises.

50 100 150 200 250



Ferry crossing
Melrose Collection, Cammie G. Henry Research Center





CANE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

PO Box 1201 • Natchitoches, LA 71458

Phone: 318-356-5555

Electronic Mail: info@caneriverheritage.org

**Websites: www.caneriverheritage.org
www.nps.gov/crha**

Cane River Creole National Historical Park

Phone: 318-352-0383

Website: www.nps.gov/cari

If you would like to learn more about other national heritage areas, the following websites provide good overviews and links:

**The Alliance of National Heritage Areas
www.nationalheritageareas.com**

**The National Park Service
www.cr.nps.gov/heritageareas**



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